

Finance Committee Meeting March 3rd 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:06PM. Present were Mr. Zukauskas, Mr. Imberman, Mr. Dowling Mr. Yohalem, and Mrs. Spaulding. Guests Included Ms. Tara White, and Mr. Michael Skorput. Minutes were read with Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mr. Dowling 2nd and passed with Mr. Yohalem and Mrs. Spaulding abstaining as they were absent for that meeting.

The first budget to be discussed was the **Town Hall 10192.70** (\$25,000) now requesting (\$30,000). Mr. Skorput was asked to clarify some of the individual budget items. After some discussion it was decided that the request for \$30,000 was not adequate to cover the costs of the Town Hall. The actual cost including transfers from the Reserve Fund and from other departments amounted to approximately \$37,000. Some of the included items could not be eliminated, such as the purchase of law books and the maintenance agreement on the copier. Mr. Zukauskas suggested that the town purchase some computer software that would allow the "backing up" of all the files (such as the work of the Tax Collector and the Town Accountant. The Town Clerk and the Assessors are already backed up by the state). Then there was no provision in the present budget for the purchase of new computers, after much discussion it was decided that the budget request should be [\$37,500] which was a more realistic figure! Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mr. Dowling 2nd passed unanimously.

The other budgets were salaries. There was a general disapproval of "across the board salaries" The Finance Committee has written on several occasions to the Board of Selectmen advising them that salaries should be based on merit and there should be some sort of supervision attached to salaries. The selectmen this year have suggested a 2% raise in salaries granted to both elected and appointed employees. It was noted that the employees did not receive a raise for the past two years. Ms. White stated that an increase needed to be factored into the budget so that the Finance committee could get a "bottom line" on the total budget and thus have some idea as to whether some items needed be cut, or placed outside 2 ½ . Mr. Zukauskas reminded the committee that some people took a 10% cut several years ago when the budget was very "tight". Nevertheless the following budgets were passed.

Assessor's Clerk 10141.02 (\$15,907) with 2% increase, [\$16,226]

Accounting Officer's Salary 10135.02 (\$15,612) with 2% increase [\$15,925]

Selectmen's Salaries 10122.00 (\$8, 550) level funded [\$8550]

Transfer Station Salaries 70519.00 (\$16,272) with 2% increase [\$16,660]

Clerical 10192.02 (\$22,163) with 2% increase [\$22,606]

Administrative Assistant 10129 (\$32,800) with 2% increase [\$33,456]

Town Clerk Salary 10161.00 (\$11,302) with 2% increase [\$11528]

Tax Collector salary 10147.02 (\$23,620) with a 2% increase [\$24,093]

Cemetery Salaries 20491.01 (\$30,628) with a 2 % increase [\$32,251]

Treasurer Salary 10147.01 (\$15,630) with a 2% increase [\$15,943]

Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Regarding the Highway Budget, the exact figures are needed, and the salaries need to be reconfigured. There was a question about whether the diesel fuel should be raised in view of the unrest in Libya.

It was decided that the Finance Committee would request that the selectmen attend their next meeting so that they could discuss the salary issue and some of the other budgets. A letter was drafted and delivered to Mr. Skorput Friday March 4th at 9:00 AM. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM the next meeting will be Wednesday March 9th 2011 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

Prudence Spaulding
March 5th 2011